

SUE W. KELLY
19TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

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AGRICULTURE AND TECHNOLOGY
ASSISTANT MAJORITY WHIP

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3219

April 7, 2005

- PLEASE REPLY TO:
- ☐ 2182 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-5441
 - ☐ 21 OLD MAIN STREET, ROOM #107
FISHKILL, NEW YORK 12524
(845) 897-5200
 - ☐ ORANGE COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER
255 MAIN STREET, 3RD FLOOR
GOSHEN, NEW YORK 10924
(845) 291-4100
 - ☐ 2025 CROMFORD ROAD
YORKTOWN HEIGHTS, NEW YORK 10598
(914) 962-0761

Mr. Michael Brown
Undersecretary for Emergency Preparedness and Response
Department of Homeland Security
500 C St. SW
Washington, D.C. 20472

Dear Mr. Brown:

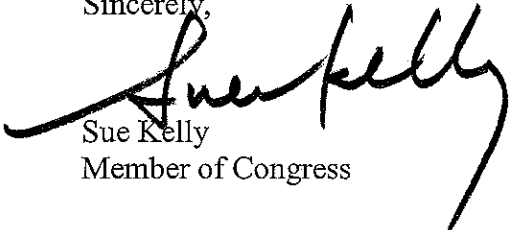
I'm writing to you regarding the devastation that several of our communities in Orange County, N.Y., are suffering from local floods that occurred during this past weekend. Further flooding is anticipated this evening with more rain in our local forecast.

We appreciate the Federal Emergency Management Agency arriving on-site yesterday to help with early assessments. I thank you for your prompt response. While the extent of the damage must be fully calculated before New York State Governor George Pataki can request our local communities be declared part of a federal disaster area, I want to express my feeling of urgency to expedite the disaster relief process in every way possible once all evaluations are complete.

The extensive damage caused by this recent flooding is extraordinarily tragic and devastating to many of my constituents. Some of them had still not recovered from flood damage they endured last summer (*Federal Disaster Declarations 1564 and 1565*). I saw firsthand on Monday, April 4, some of the early effects of the damage to homes and public property in the Neversink and Delaware River corridor communities. The flood devastation in the City of Port Jervis and within Myers Grove in the Town of Deerpark is the worst I have ever seen in the Hudson Valley. Washed-out roads in Warwick, Washingtonville, and other towns and villages throughout Orange County are further compounding public and individual damage totals. Flooding in the Black Dirt agricultural region is likely to cause serious problems for our local farmers during their upcoming growing season.

I am very eager to continue working with you, other FEMA officials, and our State Emergency Management Office in the days ahead to set up disaster recovery centers and provide the affected residents and municipalities of Orange County with all of the assistance they need in the most immediate manner possible. I ask for your continued support of our region during this very difficult time.

Sincerely,


Sue Kelly
Member of Congress